NUANCED ESSAY ON THE AGE OF CONSENT

First, I have analysis. I want to talk about the way things are in this current form of society. There are two ways of envisioning the Age of Consent:

a) as a law, and

b) as a fact of nature

Within our current society, it actually makes sense for the age of consent to be as high as it is in most places as a law. This is due to the differences in how laws are officially written vs how they are followed. In the same way people go 80 miles per hour on the freeway when the limit is 60mph, 14 year olds will see that the Age of Consent is 16, and decide to have sex.

Depending on the prevalence of rape, sex trafficking, and child marriage in a given area, it makes sense for the Age of Consent (AOC) to be a high number in order to be the widest safety net to protect the most amount of people. This means 2 things:

a) The AOC **should** be different depending on which country you're in. In Iceland? It's so safe due to its ethnically homogeneous society that the age of consent could be 13 over there and it would be fine. (It's actually 15). Meanwhile, in an Arab country where the men are more sexually aggressive, and child marriage is a serious problem, the AOC should be at *least* 18. And, considering Islam, chicks might actually be forced to follow it. In the United Arab Emirates, it actually IS 18 with no exceptions!

b) On the other hand, having the AOC be a ridiculously high number would ensure that nobody would follow it; having the AOC be 25 would be effectively the same as having no AOC at all. Nobody is going to limit themselves to 10 miles per hour on the freeway. This freeway metaphor is extremely fitting for the AOC. Freeways are flat and wide, which suits them perfectly for driving at high speeds. The freeway represents human nature, which strongly desires sex. While there can be certain things in place to lower the speed at which people drive, like tolls, they only last momentarily, and lowered speed limits only work to an extent. People mostly ignore the speed limit, and go 20mph above the posted sign. People want to drive fast on the freeway, and teenagers want to have sex. Laws are meant to work alongside human nature, preventing the worst aspects it of manifesting, not work directly against human nature.

Secondly, the age of consent as a fact of nature is an uncomfortable gray zone that is younger than most people would like to think about. Puberty happens earlier now due to processed foods, which has led to a whole new ethical dilemma in our society: that there are now some 12 year olds who are sexually mature and look 20, but are still mentally children. What you have to understand is that this doesn't justify acting upon ephebophilia or hebephilia. Yes, you can find them attractive due to appearance, but their bodies being ready for sex is something that happened for unhealthy reasons. Contrast this to hunter-gatherers, for which the average age to get your period was 16. But that's an AVERAGE. Among Pumé foragers in Venezuela, girls get their period at an average of 12.9 (almost 13), and give birth to their first kid at 15 and a half. I think this makes sense. More athletic/sporty girls get their periods later, and more nourished/fatter ones get their periods earlier. The Pumé are in the Amazon, meanwhile the average age of 16 given prior is from desert societies like the !Kung and Hadza. Meanwhile in our current industrialized society, the average age of menarche for girls in the US is 11.9. I personally got my period at 10. Would it be ethical to have sex with the 10 year old version of me? No. I was still mentally and physically a child structurally, despite menstruating. Really, the truth is that

there is no easy answer to this. You really do just have to look at the maturity of the individual to see if they're fit for sexual relations. This is why I don't care if a 14 year old has sex with a 17 year old if they have comparable maturity levels. I don't see age gaps as a cancelable offense. I remember being 14. I was attracted to 17 year old males, and even much older ones, although I am more of a statistical anomaly regarding my specific taste in older men. The truth is that the ethics of sexual relations are first based off of puberty, then off of maturity.

Maturity includes understanding:
(1) physical consequences (pregnancy, STIs),
(2) emotional impact (attachment, regret), and
(3) social meaning (power dynamics, consent).

To illustrate this, let's say there are two 15 year olds who are dating. One of them has not gone through puberty for whatever reason, and looks around 10. The other has gone through puberty, and looks 18. If you believe that legality dictates ethics or morality, then this would be fine. But it is clearly not. The 15 year old who looks 18 would be better off dating an 18 year old, not the 15 year old who looks 10. It's abnormal on the part of the 15 year old who looks 18 to date someone who looks 10.

So puberty is the first cutoff, but what about maturity? I'm putting aside exceptions like the mentally disabled who cannot consent at any age due to their mental age being lower than that of someone who has gone through puberty, which is obvious. My discussion focuses more on the general population.

If you're able to understand what sex actually IS and its social implications, then you're *capable* of having it. **I am not encouraging the behavior.** I remember being 13 and asking other 13 year olds on this topic. They all understood the concept of consent but would never choose to have sex because they were mentally healthy, because in our society, having sex at that young of an age will only harm you. If you're actively trying to have sex at 13, it's because something went wrong in your life. It doesn't help either that certain forms of written and video media aggravate the desire for sex at these ages, when previously you would be thinking about something else. A lot of people just watch porn or read smut because they're bored and it's enjoyable.

Furthermore, there is something to be said about adult age gap relationships. Most 18 year old women are not attracted to 40 year old men. Young women enter these relationships out of financial need, not true desire. Which is dysgenic. Capitalism rewards people as long as they have money, even if they have bad genetics or character. The manosphere gurus clearly advocate for these kinds of relationships to change social perception so more 18 year olds will become comfortable with the prospect of dating them. It is done solely for their individual benefit, not for the benefit of the woman, their progeny, or society at large. I am not opposed to age gaps per se, but the often perverse incentives behind them.

PART 2: ON LOLICON
A topic related to the age of consent that is important to discuss is Lolicon. Lolicon is not ethical consumption. The faces of the anime girls due to their proportions make them look around 8, and their bodies 12. I understand the appeal of an innocent, sweet woman who has been untouched by the grittiness of this world, but women can have that appeal without looking 12. Watching this content normalizes sexual desire for children. If you jerk off to this, you need to log off immediately and spend time in nature.

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ajpa.20817
https://www.statnews.com/2024/05/29/early-menarche-jama-study-average-age-first-period/